



Milwaukee County

County Executive Scott Walker
Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY PROVIDES FUNDING TO FURTHER IMPROVE CARE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Milwaukee, WI – Thursday's County Board passage of a resolution providing an additional \$60,412 for an existing contract with the American Red Cross Greater Milwaukee Chapter is an important step forward. The funds will be used to provide more awareness of the health and well being of Behavioral Health Division clients who live at the West Samaria rooming house in Milwaukee.

Thursday's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article inaccurately reported that Milwaukee County has a contract with the owner of the West Samaria rooming house. In fact, the housing complex is owned by a private operator and is one of only a few willing to house people with chronic, advanced stages of mental illness.

The additional funds will be used to provide for another resident manager in the building to report any problems or issues to the case manager. "This extra set of eyes and ears is a proactive step. While we can't provide this level of service for all of the 2,000 people in our system, we have identified some surplus money to take to this site, which is home to several individuals who suffer from severe and chronic mental illness," said Jim Hill, Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division Administrator.

"We're investing millions into providing help for the people who need it most," said County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, who chairs the County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee. "The HUD funding accepted by the County Executive earlier this week, along with the County Board's help in securing quality housing for mentally ill individuals, shows we are committed to taking care of these individuals."

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